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PERFORMANCE WORK STATEMENT

Contract Number EP-C-0-010 Scientific Consulting Group Work Assignment Number: 04-11

Title:

Technical Support for Environmental

Measurement, Monitoring, Modeling, and Laboratory

Science Programs

Scope of Work Reference:

Task: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4

Work Assignment COR:

Lara P. Phelps

Office of the Science Advisor

US EPA (E243-05)

Office of Research and Development

109 T. W. Alexander Drive

Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Telephone: (919) 541-5544

Alternate Work Assignment COR:

Robin Clarke

Office of the Science Advisor

US EPA (8102-R)

Office of Research and Development 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460 Telephone: (202) 564-6493

Fax: (202) 564-2070

BACKGROUND:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Agency or EPA) has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve the quality, consistency, accessibility, ease-of-use, and cost effectiveness of the Agency, State, and regulated community environmental measurement, monitoring, modeling, and laboratory science activities. The Agency has given the Office of the Science Advisor responsibility for supporting these cross-Agency efforts with programs such as the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM), the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM), and the Environmental Laboratory Advisor Board (ELAB).

The FEM was established as a standing committee of senior EPA managers to enhance EPA's measurement programs by recommending to the Agency's Science Policy Council, chaired by the Agency's Science Advisor: the basic principles to guide the Agency's measurement community; the promotion of consistency and consensus within the Agency on measurement issues; and provide an internal and external contact point for addressing measurement methodology issues with multi-program impact. The FEM is addressing a number of issues thru sub-committees (or Action Teams/Workgroups), which include at the present time: Improving the Quality of Agency Methods; Implementation of the Performance Approach; Technical Assistance; Method Detection/ Quantitation and Calibration; General Laboratory Competency; National Laboratory Accreditation; Environmental Measurement Symposium (i.e., the joint meeting of the National Environmental Monitoring Conference [NEMC] and Forum on Laboratory Accreditation); Environmental Technology; and Monitoring Assessment. Tasks outlined below to support the efforts of the FEM will include preparing summaries of meetings for the primary membership meetings (i.e., quarterly) and sub-committee (or Action Team/Workgroup) meetings in addition to assistance for sub-committees, when needed, with literature searches, assisting in the development of technical background papers (e.g., guidance, reports), training, and peer review.

The CREM was established to promote scientific integrity and defensibility in the modeling principles, practices, and guidance, which information environmental and public health regulatory decision-making and research applications. Specifically, the CREM:

- Promotes consistency in model development, evaluation, and application; eliminate duplication, confusion, and uncertainty; and facilitate transparency, improve science and policymaking, and integration.
- Inventory modeling activities and needs and determine which activities should be addressed by CREM in a manner that is supportive, but not duplicative, of other ongoing efforts.
- Anticipates scientific and technological developments in modeling, so that EPA is prepared for the next generation of environmental models and their quality assurance needs.
- Coordinate with other cross-agency groups and external stakeholders on environmental monitoring, information management, and technology needs to promote the alignment of activities to solve complex environmental modeling issues, address the Agency's science and technology priorities, and leverage constrained resources. Such external stakeholders will include federal, state, local, academic, and industry partners.
- Facilitates the transition toward integrated modeling to information Agency decisions and actions while decreasing program and media-specific constraints.
- Provide a central point of focus to address cross-Agency modeling issues that are beyond the purview of any single Agency office, including communications within the environmental modeling community with links to Program- and Region- specific information.
- Resoles technical issues and provides guidance which could have broad applications.
- Identifies and fosters adoption of best practices that will save modeling resources or expedite model development.
- Plans strategically and sets priorities in consultation with the Science and Technology Policy Council (STPC) regarding the possible development of cross-Agency guidance, principles or activities for issues including, but not limited to: model development and applications; peer review; quality assurance and control; model performance, evaluation, verification, and validation; training; technical support; and identification and penetration of barriers to improved use of models in EPA.

The CREM workgroups to undertake these activities include: uncertainty, modeling inventories, integrated modeling, and training/guidance. Others may still materialize in the coming months, as well. Tasks outlined below to support the efforts of the CREM will include preparing summaries of meetings for the primary membership meetings (i.e., quarterly) and sub-committee (or Action Team/Workgroup) meetings in addition to assistance for sub-committees, when needed, with literature searches, assisting in the development of technical background papers (e.g., guidance, reports), training, and peer review.

The ELAB is a Federal Advisory Committee to the Agency made up of individuals from trade associations for the environmental laboratory industry; trade associations from EPA's regulated community; environmental public interest groups; academia; local and tribal governments; proficiency testing providers; and laboratory assessment bodies. Since their initial Charter a number of years ago, the kinds of advice, information and recommendations that ELAB provides to the EPA has changed to include issues related to enhancing the EPA's measurement programs, and the operation and expansion of a national environmental accreditation program. Tasks outlined below to support the efforts of the ELAB will include preparing summaries of meetings for the primary meetings and workgroups in addition to assistance for the workgroups, when needed, with literature searches and assisting in the development of technical background papers.

It is anticipated that there will be approximately 45 meetings during the course of this work assignment (i.e., Technical Directives will be issued via email to provide specific meeting information). One meeting will be held in a face-to-face setting and is scheduled for January 27, 2013 from 8:00-10:00 (CT) at the Hyatt Regency in Louisville, Kentucky.

TASKS:

The contractor shall monitor the meetings of the FEM, FEM Action Teams/Workgroups, CREM, CREM Action Teams/Workgroups, ELAB, and ELAB Workgroups by providing logistical and meeting summary services to facilitate the work of these groups.

In addition to these meeting summaries, FEM and CREM sub-committees (or Action Teams/Workgroups), and ELAB workgroups will need assistance with:

- the development of general meeting materials to help facilitate discussions of current and potential issues:
- the development of method validation guidelines, which could include literature searches, for biology, sampling for biology, toxicology, and other areas as identified;
- the development of outreach documents, tools, and training materials for the implementation of the performance approach;
- the development of an inventory, glossary, and report for method detection/ quantitation and calibration;
- the development of outreach documents to improve participation in national accreditation programs;
- the development of inventories for environmental technology;
- the development of an inventory of data exchange formats/templates;
- the development of an inventory and report for monitoring;
- the development of a model domain taxonomy to catalog models;
- the development of an approach for characterizing uncertainty, strengths, and limitations of models, and modeling components to aid in their comparison; the development of an approach(s) for use of integrated modeling;
- the development of training for model quality assurance; and
- the development of webinars for measurement, monitoring, modeling, and laboratory science tools.

DELIVERABLES:

The Work Plan is due within 15 calendar days of receipt of the work assignment.

The WAM will provide technical direction and draft materials to the contractor for all of the committee, sub-committees, board, and workgroups listed above. An initial conference call will be held within 5 working days of receipt of the draft materials to clarify questions and details of technical directives.

An outline of all meeting highlights and action items will be provided to the WAM within 24 hours of each committee, sub-committee, board, or workgroup meeting date.

All draft meeting summaries will be provided to the WAM within 10 working days of each committee, sub-committee, board, or workgroup meeting date. Each summary will be finalized during the next official meeting of each committee, sub-committee, board, or workgroup meeting date and final summary will be provided to the WAM within 5 working days of each committee, sub-committee, board, or workgroup meeting date once the draft is discussed.

For some sub-committee and workgroup meetings, minutes will not be discussed further and will be considered final after the next meeting of the group, if no comments are raised.

A specific deliverable schedule will be established with each appropriate committee, sub-committee, board, or workgroup; WAM; and contractor for each product listed above within 10 days of receipt of the draft materials to clarify questions and details of each product.

TRAVEL:

Per the contract clause Local LC-31-08, Approval of Contractor Travel, any non-local travel directly chargeable to this work assignment shall be submitted and approved by the Project Officer COR prior to the travel. The contractor is expected to travel to Sarasota, FL and Washington, DC for these two face-to-face meetings.

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA:

Final products shall be produced by the Contractor upon the EPA WA COR's approval through written technical direction. The Contractor shall provide all materials written as part of these tasks to the EPA WA COR, as per work assignment, in electronic format. Electronic versions shall be compatible with current ORD computer systems (Word and Excel) and software.

MANAGEMENT CONTROLS:

Periodic meetings between the EPA and contractor work assignment managers are encouraged to discuss any questions that may arise during performance or completion of this work assignment. At the EPA WA COR's discretion, these meetings may occur via teleconference or video conferences. The contractor shall document these meetings and submit copies of this correspondence to the EPA WA COR.

The EPA WA COR may identify one or more EPA technical representatives for this work assignment. Interaction between the contractor and any EPA technical representative(s) designated by the EPA WA COR is solely for the purpose of presenting and discussing the information, analyses, results, or presentations related to this work assignment. The interaction will be technical communication vice technical direction. Per the technical direction clause EPAAR 1552.237-71 of the contract, the EPA PO COR and the EPA WA COR or alternate EPA WA COR are the only representatives of the CO authorized to provide technical direction.

Per the technical direction clause, the CO and PO will be provided with copies of all technical direction.

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PERFORMANCE WORK STATEMENT Work Assignment Number: 04-11

Title: Technical Support for Environmental Measurement, Monitoring, Modeling, and Laboratory Science Programs

Scope of Work Reference: Task: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4

BACKGROUND:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Agency or EPA) has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve the quality, consistency, accessibility, ease-of-use, and cost effectiveness of the Agency, State, and regulated community environmental measurement, monitoring, modeling, and laboratory science activities. The Agency has given the Office of the Science Advisor responsibility for supporting these cross-Agency efforts with programs such as the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM), the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM), and the Environmental Laboratory Advisor Board (ELAB).

The FEM was established as a standing committee of senior EPA managers to enhance EPA's measurement programs by recommending to the Agency's Science Policy Council, chaired by the Agency's Science Advisor: the basic principles to guide the Agency's measurement community; the promotion of consistency and consensus within the Agency on measurement issues; and provide an internal and external contact point for addressing measurement methodology issues with multi-program impact. The FEM is addressing a number of issues thru sub-committees (or Action Teams/Workgroups), which include at the present time: Improving the Quality of Agency Methods; Implementation of the Performance Approach; Technical Assistance; Method Detection/ Quantitation and Calibration; General Laboratory Competency; National Laboratory Accreditation; Environmental Measurement Symposium (i.e., the joint meeting of the National Environmental Monitoring Conference [NEMC] and Forum on Laboratory Accreditation); Environmental Technology; and Monitoring Assessment. Tasks outlined below to support the efforts of the FEM will include preparing summaries of meetings for the primary membership meetings (i.e., quarterly) and sub-committee (or Action Team/Workgroup) meetings in addition to assistance for sub-committees, when needed, with literature searches, assisting in the development of technical background papers (e.g., guidance, reports), training, and peer review.

The CREM was established to promote scientific integrity and defensibility in the modeling principles, practices, and guidance, which information environmental and public health regulatory decision-making and research applications. Specifically, the CREM:

- Promotes consistency in model development, evaluation, and application; eliminate duplication, confusion, and uncertainty; and facilitate transparency, improve science and policymaking, and integration.
- Inventory modeling activities and needs and determine which activities should be addressed by CREM in a manner that is supportive, but not duplicative, of other ongoing efforts.
- Anticipates scientific and technological developments in modeling, so that EPA is prepared for the next generation of environmental models and their quality assurance needs.
- Coordinate with other cross-agency groups and external stakeholders on environmental monitoring, information management, and technology needs to promote the alignment of activities to solve complex environmental modeling issues, address the Agency's science and technology priorities, and leverage

constrained resources. Such external stakeholders will include federal, state, local, academic, and industry partners.

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It is anticipated that there will be approximately 175 meetings during the course of this work assignment (i.e., Technical Directives will be issued via email to provide specific meeting information). Two meetings will be held in a face-to-face setting with the location varying. The first meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2013 from 8:30 – Noon (ET) at the Hyatt Regency in Denver, Colorado. The second meeting will be August 5, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency in San Antonio, Texas with the exact time yet to be determined.

TASKS:

The contractor shall monitor the meetings of the FEM, FEM Action Teams/Workgroups, CREM, CREM Action Teams/Workgroups, ELAB, and ELAB Workgroups by providing logistical and meeting summary services to facilitate the work of these groups.

In addition to these meeting summaries, FEM and CREM sub-committees (or Action Teams/Workgroups), and ELAB workgroups will need assistance with:

- the development of general meeting materials to help facilitate discussions of current and potential issues;
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- the development of an approach for characterizing uncertainty, strengths, and limitations of models, and modeling components to aid in their comparison; the development of an approach(s) for use of integrated modeling;
- the development of training for model quality assurance; and
- the development of webinars for measurement, monitoring, modeling, and laboratory science tools.

DELIVERABLES:

The Work Plan is due within 15 calendar days of receipt of the work assignment.

The WAM will provide technical direction and draft materials to the contractor for all of the committee, sub-committees, board, and workgroups listed above. An initial conference call will be held within 5 working days of receipt of the draft materials to clarify questions and details of technical directives.

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A specific deliverable schedule will be established with each appropriate committee, sub-committee, board, or workgroup; WAM; and contractor for each product listed above within 10 days of receipt of the draft materials to clarify questions and details of each product.

TRAVEL:

Per the contract clause Local LC-31-08, Approval of Contractor Travel, any non-local travel directly chargeable to this work assignment shall be submitted and approved by the Project Officer COR prior to the travel. The contractor is expected to travel to Sarasota, FL and Washington, DC for these two face-to-face meetings.

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA:

Final products shall be produced by the Contractor upon the EPA WA COR's approval through written technical direction. The Contractor shall provide all materials written as part of these tasks to the EPA WA COR, as per work assignment, in electronic format. Electronic versions shall be compatible with current ORD computer systems (Word and Excel) and software.

MANAGEMENT CONTROLS:

Periodic meetings between the EPA and contractor work assignment managers are encouraged to discuss any questions that may arise during performance or completion of this work assignment. At the EPA WA COR's discretion, these meetings may occur via teleconference or video conferences. The contractor shall document these meetings and submit copies of this correspondence to the EPA WA COR.

The EPA WA COR may identify one or more EPA technical representatives for this work assignment. Interaction between the contractor and any EPA technical representative(s) designated by the EPA WA COR is solely for the purpose of presenting and discussing the information, analyses, results, or presentations related to this work assignment. The interaction will be technical communication vice technical direction. Per the technical direction clause EPAAR 1552.237-71 of the contract, the EPA PO COR and the EPA WA COR or alternate EPA WA COR are the only representatives of the CO authorized to provide technical direction.

Per the technical direction clause, the CO and PO will be provided with copies of all technical direction.

Work Assignment COR:

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